46. Expenditure.—The following statement shows the expenditure on medical relief during the year, as compared with that of the previous year :—

	1082 Rs.	1083 Rs.
Government institutions	3,02,826	3,06,683
Grant-in-aid to medical institutions	11,516	12,586
Vaidyasalas	14,823	14,856
Total.....	3,29,165	3,34,125

Sanitation.

47. Conservancy establishments were, as in the previous year, maintained in 47 stations, of which five were towns governed by the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. The expenditure incurred by Government on these five towns was Rs. 54,300, while the outlay on the other 42 places amounted to Rs. 46,557. The total outlay from the general revenues on sanitation was thus Rs. 1,00,857. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 68,457 incurred in the towns of Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Alleppey, and Kottayam, Rs. 54,300 came from the general revenues, against a sum of over Rs. 65,000 in the previous year, the amount contributed by the people directly benefited rising from a little less than Rs. 6,000 in the previous year to Rs. 14,157 in the year under review. This is *some* improvement, but in the opinion of His Highness' Government, further relief *has* to be given to the general tax-payer and the towns benefited *have* to be made to pay more largely for their local needs. In sanctioning the budgets for 1084 for the Town Improvement Committees, the Sirkar grants have been further reduced, from Rs. 54,300 to Rs. 40,500, and it has been suggested to the Committees that they might levy house tax to make up for the reduction. The Bill now before the Legislative Council authorises His Highness' Government to sanction, of their own motion, the imposition of local taxation in the towns governed by the Regulation. And for the reasons which have induced us to take this step, I cannot do better than quote the remarks made by me at the meeting of the Council which took place on the 14th September last.

"With reference to what Mr. Kuruvila has said, I would only remark that, "even when the present law was passed, it *was* contemplated that the Town Im- "provement Committees should gradually resort to local taxation to supplement the "grants given to them by Government, but the discretion to tax was however vest- "ed wholly in them. If the Committees had gradually used their powers, nothing "would have been more pleasing to Government than to have allowed a state of "things like that to continue. Unfortunately, though the T. I. C. Regulation "came into force more than eight years ago, not a single Committee has made reason- "able proposals to use their power. It is not a question of the interests of Govern- "ment, as against the interests of the urban population. On the other hand, it is "a question of the interests of the general tax-payer as against those of the urban "population. Are we for ever to leave it to the people of a few towns to tax them-

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" selves only if they wish to do so, they knowing all the time that, *if* they do not " do so, there is no authority which can impose taxation upon them and also know- " ing that Government would in any case give them enough for all their require- " ments? A state of affairs like that appears to me to be self-condemned. If the " framers of the T. I. C. Regulation of 1076 thought that the people of the towns " would voluntarily resort to taxation under the provisions of the law, all that I can " say is that they very much misunderstood the situation. The average human being, " in town or village, would not pay any tax if he could help it. That is human " nature all the world over."

Education.

48. Chief events of the year.—The following were the chief events of the year:—

(1) The powers and duties of the Inspectors of Schools and of the Heads of Institutions under the direct control of Government, were revised and enlarged. Several Institutions, which had been working independently of the inspecting agency, were placed under the administrative control of the Inspectors. The revision of the inspecting agency, which was last organised in 1070, was also decided upon. The separation of the supervision of girls' schools from that of boys' schools, the appointment of an Inspectress of girls' schools, with four Assistant Inspectresses, the reduction of the boys' school ranges from three to two, the raising of the status of the Assistant Inspectors of boys' schools and the abolition of the grade of Sub-Assistant Inspectors are the chief features of the revision. The new scheme will come into operation from the 1st January 1909.

(2) A Committee consisting of 10 members—official and non-official—was appointed to revise the curricula of studies, with a view to bring the school course into conformity with the changes introduced in University education, to suggest methods for improving the standard of Vernacular education, to report upon the feasibility of introducing a practical side to secondary education, to investigate the suitability of existing text-books and the necessity for revising or replacing them and to submit suggestions regarding the improvement of the accommodation and equipment of schools, qualifications of teachers, promotion of pupils, methods of teaching and methods of inspection. The Committee has closed its sittings and submitted its report. The report is under the consideration of His Highness' Government.

(3) The comparative examinations, which used to be held for Forms IV and V in all Sirkar English schools, were abolished, all class promotions being left to the discretion of the headmasters of those schools, acting under the control of the Inspectors and of the Principals of Colleges.

(4) Encouragement was given to the education of Mahomedans by granting them special concessions. Full salary grants are now allowed to Mahomedan primary schools; Arabic is permitted to be taught as a second language and a special grant is allowed to Arabic Munshis; and Mahomedan pupils are allowed to be admitted into all Sirkar schools at half the fees prescribed for ordinary students.

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